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I hereby certify that this paper, together with all enclosures identified herein, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on or before February 11, 2004

2/11/2004

Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Thornell et al

Examiner

Dionne A. Walls

Serial No.

10/643,518

Group Art Unit

1731

Confirmation No.

4496

Attorney Docket No.

TNT - 021030C1

Filing Date

August 19, 2003

Title

ASHTRAY APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the claims as indicated below prior to substantive examination of the present application.